SILENE FLOS-CUCULI SSP. *FLOS-CUCULI* (CARYOPHYLLACEAE) AND *EUPHORBIA PEPLUS* (EUPHORBIACEAE) NEW TO NORTH CAROLINA

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ABSTRACT

Two taxa previously undocumented for the vascular flora of North Carolina are here reported. Both state records are from mountainous counties located in extreme northwestern North Carolina, in the Blue Ridge Physiographic Province of the Southern Appalachians. *Silene flos-cuculi* ssp. *flos-cuculi* is a European exotic that primarily occurs in the northeastern United States. This taxon was collected from a ruderal, old-field site in southeastern Alleghany County. The Eurasian exotic *Euphorbia peplus* has been documented in several adjacent states and is distributed throughout North America. This synanthropic species was observed in areas of heavy disturbance in central Watauga County.

RESUMEN

Dos taxones nunca antes documentados para la flora vascular de Carolina del Norte son aquí reportados. Ambos reportes estatales son de condados montañosos localizados en el extremo noroeste de Carolina del Norte, en la provincia fisiográfica Blue Ridge (Borde Azul) de los Apalaches del sur. *Silene flos-cuculi* ssp. *flos-cuculi* es una especie europea exótica que ocurre principalmente en el noreste de los Estados Unidos. Este taxon fue colectado en un viejo campo ruderal en el sureste del condado Alleghany. La especie Euroasiática exótica *Euphorbia peplus* ha sido documentada en varios estados adyacentes y se distribuye por toda Norteamérica. Esta especie sinantrópica fue observada en áreas seriamente perturbadas en el centro del condado de Watauga.

Silene flos-cuculi (L.) Clairv. ssp. **flos-cuculi** (syn. *Lychnis flos-cuculi* L.), Ragged Robin, is a showy introduced taxon in the Caryophyllaceae with deeply dissected, pink petals. This perennial European native is presumed to be established in the northeastern United States (Weakley 2007), but has also been reported in several other U.S. localities, including fifteen states and the District of Columbia. States with records of this plant are Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin (USDA, NRCS 2007). *Silene flos-cuculi* ssp. *flos-cuculi* was rare in abundance, with approximately four individuals observed in an old-field across from Rich Hill Church in the rural Glade Valley community. Associated taxa include *Dactylis glomerata* L., *Pinus virginiana* Mill., *Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn var. *latiusculum* (Desv.) Underw. ex A. Heller, *Rubus argutus* Link, and *Sassafras albidum* (Nutt.) Nees. The four-lobed, lacerate petal morphology and pink coloration differs substantially from other *Silene* spp. in North Carolina.

Voucher specimens: **NORTH CAROLINA. Alleghany Co.:** Glade Valley, Rich Hill Church, at the jct. of Shawtown Rd. and Rich Hill Rd., at latitude 36°28'20" N and longitude 80'59'31" W, 18 May 2007, *Poindexter 07-136* (BOON, NCU).

Euphorbia peplus L., Petty Spurge, is an exotic annual in the Euphorbiaceae. This Eurasian introduced taxon has a transcontinental distribution in the United States, occurring in total of thirty-five states, including Hawaii and Alaska (USDA, NRCS 2007). This herbaceous species exhibits short fleshy stems, primarily alternate, obovate leaves, and a characteristic seed morphology of outer pitted faces and inner furrows. This plant was discovered to be frequent in ruderal communities created by regular human perturbation on the campus of Appalachian State University. An estimated 50–100 individuals were observed. Associated taxa include *Chamaesyce maculata* (L.) Small, *Ranunculus repens* L., *Cyperus strigosus* L., *Sonchus asper* (L.) Hill, *Senecio vulgaris* L., *Portulaca oleracea* L., and *Galinsoga quadriradiata* Ruiz & Pav.

Voucher specimens: **NORTH CAROLINA. Watauga Co.:** Boone; Appalachian State University, growing on campus grounds adjacent

to Rankin Science Bldg., parallel to Rivers St., in disturbed areas and permanent flower beds, at latitude 36°12'49" N and longitude 81°40'49" W, 15 Jun 2007, *Poindexter 07-205* (BEREA, BOON, NCU).

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